The handbell and vocal choirs of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, and Karl Road Christian Church have come together to form a summer choir that will play and sing at each of the churches. Everyone will be at St. Andrew’s on August 2, at Gethsemane on August 16, and Karl Road Christian on August 23. Rehearsal is at Gethsemane July 30.
Come to the Table

When Jesus fed 5000 people (and then 4000 in the gospel of Mark) he was not just feeding them. He was also teaching them, with solid examples, about God’s abundance, grace, gifts, and love for everyone.

As Christians, when we share our meals together, when we share food with people who are hungry, and when we share communion together, we are not just eating. We are teaching and learning, with solid examples, about God’s abundance, grace, gifts and love for everyone.

This is why we gather at the table every week. In our dog eat dog world of austerity, bean counting, and our national narrative of scarcity, we need constant reminders of which kingdom we truly belong to.

On July 25, we start our worship series “Come to the Table”. The lectionary has us hearing about Jesus feeding the 5000 and goes on to his discussion with various people about what this means. For five weeks, we will focus on Jesus as the Bread of Life. The one who not only gives lunch, but his whole self so that we will never be hungry again. All that he asks is that we Come to the Table.

Rev. June Wilkins

The following letter was emailed to the congregation in regards to same sex marriages. Check your church mailbox if you do not have email or read below.

Gethsemane,

In light of the Supreme Court Ruling on same sex marriage Gethsemane’s council had a discussion on July 9th about the possibility of Gethsemane’s pastors officiating over same sex marriages. In the discussion, we talked about our Welcome Statement which says that “all are welcome into the full life and ministry of this community” and we agreed that marriage is an important part of our full life here at Gethsemane.

The council unanimously voted that “Gethsemane Lutheran Church be open to our pastor performing marriages for same sex couples in accordance with our current guidelines for weddings.”

We will have a discussion with the congregation about this decision, about our understanding of marriage in general, and its importance to our faith life. This discussion will take place in our Adult Education time on Sunday, August 9th following worship. I hope you will join in on it no matter what your view on the topic of same sex marriage is. This is a nuanced issue and we hope to hear many thoughts.

As presiding Bishop Eaton wrote in her letter, “We seek to see our differences as a gift to be celebrated as we live out that which unites us: the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ who leads us into mission and ministry in the world.”

If you have any concerns about this decision that you would like to share privately, you can contact me at pastorjune@gethsemane.org or 885-4319 or contact our council president, Mark Hagerdorn at mark.hagerdorn@panaceaproducts.com.

In the mean time, if you would like to read the ELCA’s social statement on Human Sexuality, you can find it here:
http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SexualitySS.pdf?_ga=1.161293493.982780855.1378411568

Rev. June Wilkins
Augsburg Fortress is hosting a hymn festival at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 3, at Gethsemane that is free and open to the public. Gethsemane members should plan on attending and bringing their friends.

Hymn festivals are a way of promoting congregational song in churches, as well as bringing communities together through music and liturgy. “Let the Whole Creation Cry: A Hymn Festival” follows a pattern for worship that includes hymn introductions and accompaniments, readings, reflections, and prayers prepared by John Ferguson, retired professor of organ and church music and cantor to the student congregation at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Congregational hymns and choral anthems will be led by Anton Armstrong, professor of music at St. Olaf College and conductor of the renowned St. Olaf Choir.

In addition to the hymn festival, individuals and choirs are invited to participate in the festival choir led by Armstrong and accompanied by Ferguson in a rehearsal prior to the hymn festival from 6 to 7:15 p.m. No registration is required to attend the hymn festival or rehearse and sing with the festival choir.

The hymn festival is part of the Augsburg Fortress Summer 2015 Music Clinics, which annually draw hundreds of church musicians at six locations across the United States with the purpose of exploring fresh and innovative ways to enliven music in worship.
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! Hymn Festival Sept 11 2015

When: Friday, September 11, 2015 at 7:00PM.
Where: Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43209
Presented by: Trinity Lutheran Seminary, ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection, and the Center for Church Music at Concordia University Chicago

The public is warmly invited to join family, friends and former students of the late Rev. Dr. Walter R. Bouman for a hymn festival on the 10th anniversary of Bouman’s death honoring his life, teaching and writings, titled “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

It will take place at Trinity Lutheran Seminary on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Music to be sung will include a variety of beloved hymns in festive settings, as well as Bach’s Cantata Erhalt uns, Herr, von deinem Wort, BWV 126, performed by the Muskingum University Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Zebulon Highben, and the premiere of a new motet by Carl Schalk on Psalm 118:17 dedicated to Bouman, “I shall not die, but live.”

Featured organists are James Gladstone of Saginaw, Michigan; Linda Kempke of Rocky River, Ohio; and May Schwarz, of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. All are former Bouman students.

The freewill offering will go to the Walter R. and Janet A. Bouman Chair in Church Music at Trinity Seminary.

The hymn festival also heralds two new publications—Jesus Is Risen: Theology for the Church, Bouman’s two-volume systematic theology prepared posthumously by Dr. Ann Lee Haut, and Alleluia!, a commemorative volume of essays on topics of lifelong concern to Bouman, written by leading scholars, pastors, and theologians who knew him. Both are published by Lutheran University Press.

Walter R. Bouman was the Edward C. Fendt Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary from 1971 until his death 10 years ago. He was thoroughly devoted to the church, to its people and especially to his students. His curriculum vitae featured long lists of lectures, presentations and sermons he delivered throughout his career. Walt taught and preached the Word of God around the globe – from Holden Village in the North Range of the Cascade Mountains of Washington to New York City, from small towns in Australia to tiny villages in Africa and on to cities of Europe. Face-to-face interaction always energized him. Bouman’s theology is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. “The resurrection of Jesus was and is the starting point for Christianity, for its faith and witness, for its mission and calling,” he wrote in a popular handbook on discernment handed to every entering student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. 
Free Concert!
Sunday
September 6
6:00pm
Capital
University
1 College Ave.
Bexley, OH

Center
Campus Lawn
Outside Kern
Center

Pre-Show picnic dinner at 4:45pm
Picnic dinner tickets – $10.00
Contact gsandburg@capital.edu
Tickets must be purchased by August 17.

Bring your own blankets and lawn chairs
(Capital Center Field House if raining.)
STORY TIME

Christian Education about life, for life, and for a lifetime

SUNDAYS at 10:45 AM
IN THE LIBRARY

August 2
“Environment – Act Now!”
Dick Reuning and David Norman

Pearls from Pope Francis’ encyclical, a Gethsemane story and a solar panel open house

August 9
A Conversation about Marriage
Pastor June

In light of the recent US Supreme Court decision, what does the ELCA say? How about Gethsemane?

August 23
“Too Much Sky” & “Manna”
Joyce Geary

Start with an ancient African folk tale. Add thoughts on God’s gifts to us with the story of Manna in the

Wilderness. Mix well with comments from all of us on: “Waste”, “Sustainability”, “It’s not that we have too little but it’s what we do with it”.

August 16 and 30
No class

August 16 – Come to the Atrium to eat, meet and greet our guests in the Summer Ecumenical Choir

Coming this Fall

Lifetime Learning at 10:45am resumes on Sept. 20 with “Beatitudes and the Christian Life” lead by Dr. James Childs, Trinity Lutheran Seminary’s Professor Emeritus of Theology & Ethics.
**Small Group Ministries**

- **First Reflections**  
  Monday Bible Study  
  Paula Sauer  
  paulagsauer@yahoo.com

- **Brown Bag Bible Bunch**  
  Dick Lyndes  
  rhlyndes@wowway.com

- **Connections: Faith at Work**  
  Judy Reuning  
  jreuning@lifecrossings.com

- **Book Group**  
  Sharon Walton  
  skrwalton@gmail.com  
  Barbara Ford  
  bandbford@columbus.rr.com

- **Men’s Breakfast**  
  Bob Davis  
  ridjr@wowway.com

- **Thrivent Builds**  
  Bill Darlage  
  Darlage_bill@hotmail.com

- **LWR Quilts**  
  Terri Siebert  
  tsiebert@gethsemane.org

- **Prayer Shawls**  
  glcoffice@gethsemane.org

- **Quilting**

- **CONNECTIONS**
  **Faith at Work**

  First Friday of the month at 7:00am at Bob Evans on Olentangy River Road

- **Men's Breakfast**

  Second Saturday of the month at 8:00am at TeeJaye’s

- **Brown Bag Bible Bunch**

  Every Wednesday at 12:00pm in the church library

- **CONNECTIONS**

  Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8-3:00pm.

- **BOOK GROUP**

  Last Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the church library.

- **Shawl Ministry**

  Fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the church library.
August Birthdays

6  Adam Siddall  
   Bonnie Spring
7  Andrew Norris  
   Lisa Whitesell
8  Robbie Dunham
9  Donna Roush  
   Jim Siebert
19  Joyce Geary  
   Brian Lutz
26  Emily Gardner  
   Gottfried Maeffert  
   Manfred Maeffert
28  Michelle Toops
28  Eric Ndossi

Our Prayers and Concern Are With . . .

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” 
Ephesians 6:18

New concerns: Parker Burdette ... Amy Tatz (sister-in-law of Jim Tatz) and her premature son Jacob.

Congratulations to Jim and Barb Driver on the birth of their great granddaughter, Isabella Driver, and the celebration of their 57th Wedding Anniversary ... to Pastor Eric and Mandy Edwards on the birth if their son, Samuel Gerret. Pastor Eric was a former intern at Gethsemane.

Members with ongoing concerns: 
Donna Baer ... Bob and Sibylle Custis ... Elaine Haines ... Dick and Sue Jones ... David Lagerberg ... James Laspisa ... Phyllis Nelson.

Family and friends with concerns: 
Ron Haynes (friend of Bob and Emily Hagerdorn) ... Sonya Sheldon and her daughters Sidney and MacKenzie (friends of Char Jessie) ... Bonnie and Dennis Weirick (sister-in-law and brother of Jan Davis).

Our love and compassion to the family of Paula Burdette (mother of Brian Burdette) who passed away ... the family of Shirley Latshaw (friend of Howard and Bonnie Spring) who passed away.

Homebound: Mary Bardach ... Beryl Cumberland ... Dotty Edwards (Laurels-Worthington) ... Carolyn Fergus (Wesley Glen) ... Ken and Alice Gerken (Mayfair Village) ... Becky Oldaker (Bennington Glen) ... Ralph Portzline (Chapel Grove Inn) ... Joanne Vollrath ... Phyllis Wei ... Reva Woodruff (Sterling House).

Would you like to add a name to the Sunday prayers?
Contact church secretary at 885-4319 or glcoffice@gethsemane.org before 10:00 am on Thursday to have the name printed in the bulletin. After that time, you will have the opportunity in worship to name those silently or aloud during the prayers. You may also have the name sent out to the congregation via our E-Prayers (email).

Congratulations!
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Congregation Council

OFFICERS:

President
Mark Hagerdorn
mark.hagerdorn@panaceaproducts.com

Vice-President
Paula Sauer
paulagsauer@yahoo.com

Secretary
Bonnie Reilly
bonniedreilly@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Chris Bullwinkle
chrisbullwinkle@gmail.com

MEMBERS:

Jackson Lyimo
kljack1@yahoo.com

Michael Murphy
michaeldavidmurphy@gmail.com

Judy Kulikowski
dkulikow@columbus.rr.com

Char Jessie
cjessie@columbus.rr.com

Gary Rader
grader@wowway.com

Highlights of Council Meeting – July 9, 2015

A copy of the Council minutes and Financial Report is posted in Atrium Way. PLEASE READ BUT LEAVE POSTED. Take home copies (minus attachments) are available at the Sign-Up Desk in the narthex.

PASTOR’S REPORT

- Vacation Bible School will be held July 28-30. All are encouraged to help.

- In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling on same sex marriage, the possibility of Gethsemane’s pastors officiating over same sex marriage needs to be discussed. Council reviewed our Welcome Statement, our guidelines for weddings, the List of RIC clarifications, and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s letter on the Supreme Court ruling. MOTION: (P. Sauer, M. Murphy) that Gethsemane Lutheran Church be open to our pastor performing marriages for same sex couples in accordance with our current guidelines for weddings. Carried. Pastor June will provide opportunities for discussion with the congregation.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Contributions for June were significantly lower than budgeted which was expected. Total expenses were higher than expected for June, which was driven by the Properties and Mission lines, as contributions received for the Watoto Choir were paid out this period. These items had a relatively small impact to our net income year to date. Again, contributions should remain a focus. Council needs to review and determine areas of sustainable income. We also need to remain focused on keeping expenses within budget.

MINISTRY TEAMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Adult Education Ministry – The fall season will begin 9/20/15 with “Beatitudes and the Christian Life” led by James Childs, Trinity Lutheran Seminary’s Professor Emeritus of Theology & Ethics.

- Play and Learn – The financial study committee, under chair Heidi Hiller, is working on P&L’s business plan. P&L is applying for the first star of “Step up to Quality”.

- IYK – An application is being made for “Congregation Under Development” status to possibly access a greater funding stream.
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

Purpose Statement
The people of Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Sing God's good news
Share God's unconditional welcome
Care for each other
Serve those in need

Guiding Principles
- The life, words, and actions of Jesus Christ are the inspiration for all we do and are.
- We recognize the uniqueness of each individual. We welcome and value everyone.
- We reach out to each other, our neighbors, and creation with our hearts and minds as well as with our labor, generosity, and works of justice.
- We create a supportive environment to nurture growth and learning. We find Christ in the study of God's Word and through sharing questions, doubts, a diversity of opinions, and new ideas.
- As a faithful Christian community, we are led by the Holy Spirit to live and worship together, respect differences, communicate openly, and seek consensus.

OLD BUSINESS
- Paula Sauer reports that Jeff Luedke will chair a new committee that will work on strategic financial planning. Additional task forces to address other forward looking budget concerns are still in the works.
- The planned neighborhood visits never happened. There is also a need to distribute flyers for the VBS food pantry collection. Council members plan to walk the surrounding neighborhood July 27th at 6:30pm to distribute flyers and meet/greet our neighbors as opportunities present.

NEW BUSINESS
Church Safety/Security – With increasing use of the church by outside groups, and with the opening of the Food Pantry, the security of the church and the safety of our members and guests needs to be evaluated. MOTION: (M. Hagerdorn, P. Sauer) to direct the Properties Committee to start discussing how we can be more safe, identify vulnerabilities, and bring recommendations to council as soon as possible. Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13, 2015, AT 7:00PM.

Submitted by Bonnie Reilly

Vision Statement
To empower a servant community that overflows with God's grace, justice, and welcome.
# SERVING THIS MONTH – AUGUST 2015

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<th>August 2 9:30 AM</th>
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<th>August 16 9:30 AM</th>
<th>August 23 9:30 AM</th>
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<td>Mark Geary</td>
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<td>Jim Sauer</td>
<td>Mike Siddall</td>
<td>Eric Walton</td>
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<td><strong>Readers</strong></td>
<td>Hugh Geary</td>
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<td>Brian Murphy</td>
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<td>Joyce Geary</td>
<td>Judy Reuning</td>
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<td>Paula Sauer</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
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<td>Andrea Mayer</td>
<td>Dave Whitesell</td>
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<td>Joyce Geary</td>
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<td><strong>Nursery</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Communion Bread</strong></td>
<td>Joyce Geary</td>
<td>Worship Team</td>
<td>Carole Wilkins</td>
<td>Brian Lutz</td>
<td>Brian Murphy</td>
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<td><strong>Communion Care</strong></td>
<td>Betty Guenther</td>
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<td><strong>Counters</strong></td>
<td>Mark Geary</td>
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<td>Wendy Luedke</td>
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<td>Brian McLean</td>
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Thanks to all who worked at the Habitat for Humanity – Thrivent Builds wall raising on July 18 despite the high heat and humidity.
# AUGUST 2015

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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</table>
| 1      |        |         |           |          |        | **11-1:00 PM**  
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **Food Pantry**  |
| 2      | 9:30 AM | Worship  | 10:30 AM | Choirs at St.  
|        |         |            | Andrews |            |        |          |
|        | 10:45 AM | Education Hour | 4:00 PM | Swahili Worship |    |          |
| 3      | 9:00 AM | **Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic** |         |          |        |          |
| 4      |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 5      |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 6      |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 7      |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 8      |        |         |           |          |        | **CARPET**  
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **CLEANING**  |
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **8:00 AM**  
|        |        |         |           |          |        | Men’s Breakfast  |
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **11-1:00 PM**  
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **Food Pantry**  |
| 9      | 9:30 AM | Worship | 10:45 AM | Education Hour | 3:30 PM | Swahili Choir |  
|        |         |          |          |          |        | NEWSLETTER  
|        |         |          |          |          |        | DEADLINE  |
| 10     | 9:00 AM | Reflections |        |          |          |          |          |
| 11     | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting |        |          |          |          |          |
| 12     | 12:00 PM | BB Bible Bunch | 4:45 PM | Final Tutoring | 6:00-8:00 PM | Food Pantry |          |
| 13     | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting |        |          |          |          |          |
| 14     | 12:00 PM | BB Bible Bunch | 6:30 PM | P&L meet the teachers | 7:00 PM | Congregation Council |          |
| 15     | 8:00 AM | Reflections | 6:00 PM | Day Care | 8:00 PM | A.A. & Al Anon |          |
| 16     | 10:45 AM | Staff Meeting | 12:00 PM | A.A. & Al Anon |          |          |          |
| 17     | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting |        |          |          |          |          |
| 18     | 12:00 PM | BB Bible Bunch | 6:00-8:00 PM | Food Pantry |          |          |          |
| 19     | 7:15 PM | Reflections | 6:00-8:00 PM | Food Pantry |          |          |          |
| 20     | 11-1:00 PM | **Food Pantry** |          |          |          |          |          |
| 21     |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 22     |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 23     | 9:00 AM | Reflections | 10:30 AM | A.A. & Al Anon |          |          |          |
| 24     | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting |        |          |          |          |          |
| 25     | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting | 7:00 PM | Food Pantry |          |          |          |
| 26     | 12:00 PM | BB Bible Bunch | 6:00-8:00 PM | Food Pantry |          |          |          |
| 27     | 9:00 AM | Reflections | 6:00 PM | A.A. & Al Anon |          |          |          |
| 28     | 2:00 PM | Reflections | 6:00 PM | A.A. & Al Anon |          |          |          |
| 29     | 11-1:00 PM | **Food Pantry** |          |          |          |          |          |
| 30     |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 31     |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 32     |        |         |           |          |        |          |